

Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management
MPP 2019, AY 2018 - 2019
Fall Semester

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION
(2 credits)

Teaching team

Instructor: Nguyen Xuan Thanh Email: thanh.nguyen@fulbright.edu.vn
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Teaching Fellow: Tran Huong Giang Email: giang.river83@gmail.com

Class meetings

Tuesday 13:30 – 15:00
Thursday 13:30 – 15:00
Friday 13:30 – 15:00 (Week 1 – 5)

Office hours

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Nguyen Xuan Thanh			8:00-10:00		08:00-10:00
Hoang Van Thang		08:30-10:00		08:30-10:00	
Tran Huong Giang	08:30-10:00	08:30-10:00			

Objectives

This course provides students with theoretical foundation and fundamental models to deeply understand process in policy implementation. By examining case studies, students can practise policy implementation skills in various state management in economy, society, development planning and implementing and public service delivery.

By the end of the course, students are expected to:

- Understand and critically assess policy implementation environment in terms of political, institutional, economic and social criteria
- Explain the policy and assess how rigid/flexible a government agency is in implementing policy in the context of Vietnam
- Manage policy implementation performance, particularly in the context of public administration reforms in the transition economy

Course Description

Policy Implementation is part of the public management and leadership theme. The course starts with general knowledge in policy implementation, incorporating two sets of knowledge students obtain in MPP Program, which are (1) economics based policy planning & analysis and (ii) law and management based public governance and administration.

Policies might be misunderstood by administrators/public managers, inflicted with conflicting objectives, and poorly designed implementation process. In subsequent sessions, the course will interpret policies from administrators/implementors perspectives and evaluate the level of rigidity/flexibility in implementation process.

Similar to planning stages, implementation is subject to pressures from institutions and interest groups. Interest groups are motivated to affect the policies in their favor. Evaluating implementation environment and analyzing political, institutional, economic and social factors affecting policies being implemented are next topics.

During the course, students will examine theoretical and practical contexts of policy implementation in particular areas, for instance, state management of economy, society, service delivery contract, public-private partnership and implementation of planning.

Readings

The two primary textbooks used in the course are:

- Michael Hill and Peter Hupe (2014). *Implementing Public Policy: An Introduction to the Study of Operational Governance*, third edition, Sage Publication.
- Salamon, L.M. (2002). *The Tools of Government: A Guide to the New Governance*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press

Other supplemental readings and case studies are listed in the course outline.

Requirements and Grading

Students are expected to participate in case discussions, write policy memos and complete group projects on policy implementation.

Course grading will be structured as follows:

- Discussion: 25%
- Policy memo: 35%
- Group project: 40%

Course Outline

WEEK 1

Class meeting Tuesday, 2/10

Topic Overview of policy implementation

Reading(s)

- Hill & Hupe (2014), Chapter 2.
- Thomas A. Birkland, *An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts, and Models of Public Policy Making*, Chapter 8 & 9.

Class meeting Thursday, 4/10

Topic Bottom-up and Top-down Implementation

Reading(s)

- Hill & Hupe (2014), Chapter 3.

Case Study Friday, 5/10 (8:30 – 10:00 a.m.)

Topic Implementing economic restructuring policies

Reading(s)

- Nguyen Xuan Thanh, *Ngân hàng thương mại Việt Nam: Từ những thay đổi về luật và chính sách giai đoạn 2006-2010 đến các sự kiện tái cơ cấu giai đoạn 2011-2015 (Vietnam Commercial Banks: From law and policy changes during 2006-2010 to restructuring during 2011-2015)*, Policy memo, October 2015.
- Vietnam Prime Minister, Decision 254/QĐ-TTg approving the project on “Restructuring the systems of credit institutions during 2011-2015”, 1st March 2012.

WEEK 2

Group Project Tuesday, 09/10

Topic Group Project Discussion (8:30 – 10:00 a.m.)

Group Project Thursday, 11/10

Topic Group Project Planning

Field Trip Friday, 12/10 (the whole morning)

Topic Implementing industrial park development policies: Tan Thuan Exporting Processing Zone and Hiep Phuoc Industrial Park

WEEK 3

Class meeting Tuesday, 16/10
Topic Theories of Policy Implementation
Reading(s) • Hill & Hupe (2014), Chapter 4.

Class meeting Thursday, 18/10
Topic Economic Regulation
Reading(s) • Salamon (2002), Chapter 4.

Case Study Friday, 19/10
Topic The road to
Vietnam: The road to interest rate liberalization, Case Study by FETP

WEEK 4

Class meeting Tuesday, 23/10
Topic Social Regulation
Reading(s) • Salamon (2002), Chapter 5.

Case Study Thursday, 25/10
Topic Safety Regulations
Reading(s) • Motorbike Helmets, Case Study by FETP.

Group Project Friday, 26/10
Topic Progress Report

WEEK 5

Class meeting Tuesday, 30/10
Topic Service Contracting
Reading(s) • Salamon (2002), Chapter 9 & 10.

Case Study Thursday, 01/11
Topic Competition in Service Contracts
Reading(s) • Organizing Competition in Indianapolis: Mayor Stephen Goldsmith and the Quest for Lower Costs, NCTH Harvard Kennedy School (HKS).

Field Trip Friday, 02/11 (the whole day)
Topic Project management, Nha Trang City, Khanh Hoa Province

WEEK 6

Case Study Tuesday, 6/11

Topic Public-Private Partnerships

Reading(s) • BOT Cai Lay, Case Study by FSPPM.

Case Study Thursday 8/11

Topic Implementing traffic control policies in HCMC

Reading(s) • Ho Chi Minh City, Case Study by HKS and FETP.

WEEK 7

Group Project Presentation Friday, 14th November
